

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing collated, face-up printing, said method comprising:
 - creating a spool data file corresponding to a print job;
 - creating a page-independent index file comprising header data, footer data, and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of said print job from said spool data file;
 - manipulating said page-independent index file to effect collated, face-up printing, thereby producing a manipulated page-independent index file; and
 - ~~executing a print job by accessing~~ converting said manipulated page-independent index file into printer-ready data using a print processor customized to use said manipulated page-independent index file.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said spool data file is a Microsoft Windows Job Description File.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation comprises changing the order in which pages are printed.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said page-independent index file further comprises print job commands, page commands and page data.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said page-independent index file provides access to at least one Enhanced Metafile (EMF) file.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said page-independent index file provides access to at least one raw format file.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation of said page-independent index file comprises changing the side of a duplex page on which printing occurs.
8. (currently amended) A method for providing driver-independent, printer-independent collated, face-up printing in a printing system, said method comprising:
 - creating a spool data file corresponding to a print job;
 - creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file comprising header data, footer data, and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of said print job from said spool data file;
 - allowing manipulation of said PISF index file to effect collated, face-up printing, thereby producing a manipulated PISF index file; and

~~accessing~~ converting said manipulated PISF index file into printer-ready data
using a print processor customized to use said manipulated PISF index file. ~~to~~
~~execute a print job.~~

9. (currently amended) A method for providing face-up, collated output in a printing system, said method comprising:

creating a page-independent spool index file comprising header data, footer data,
and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of a print job;
manipulating said page-independent spool index file to effect face-up, collated
output, thereby producing a manipulated page-independent spool index file; and
~~accessing~~ converting said manipulated page-independent spool index file into
printer-ready data using a print processor customized to use said manipulated
page-independent spool index file. ~~to execute a print job.~~

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a print processor.
11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a spooler.
12. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a print assistant between a driver and a printer.

13. (currently amended) A method for adding collated, face-up output capability to a printing system, said method comprising:

initiating a print job for a document;

creating a page-independent spool index file comprising header data, footer data, and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of said print job;

modifying said page-independent spool index file to reconfigure said print job to output in a face-up, collated orientation; and

accessing said modified page-independent spool index file using a print processor customized to use said modified page-independent spool index file, to obtain document formatting information for printing.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said page-independent spool index file is produced by a print system component in a print system between a driver and a printer.

15. (currently amended) A printing system with driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting, said system comprising:

a print processor comprising:

an indexer for creating a page-independent index file comprising header data, footer data, and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of a print job;

a modifier for modifying said page-independent index file to produce print output in a face-up, collated orientation; and
a reader for accessing said ~~manipulated~~ modified page-independent index file to execute a modified print job.

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer instructions for driver-independent, printer-independent collated, face-up printer output, said computer instructions comprising the acts of:

creating a page-independent index file comprising header data, footer data, and data corresponding to the front and the back of each page of a print job;
manipulating said page-independent index file to effect a collated, face-up output orientation, thereby producing a manipulated page-independent index file; and
~~accessing~~ converting said manipulated page-independent index file into printer-ready data using a print processor customized to use said manipulated page-independent index file. ~~to execute a print job.~~

17. (canceled)